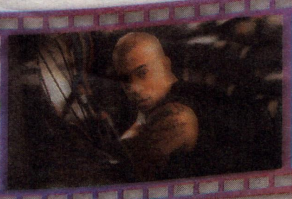
No 681 September 29, 2002

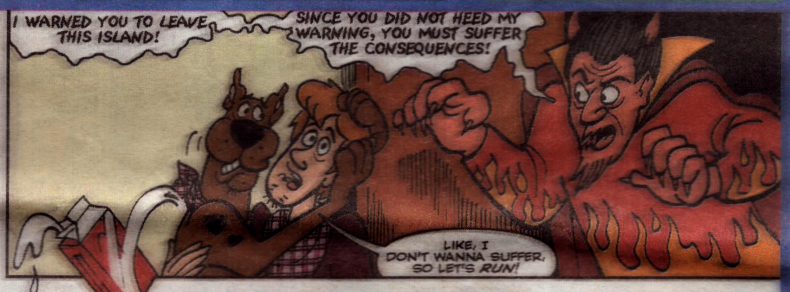
THE FUNDAY TIMES

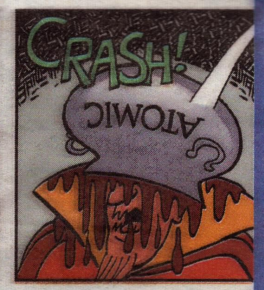


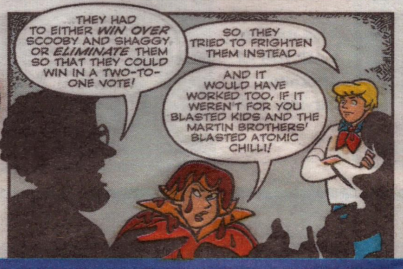
HOT TICKETS
Find out about the best movies coming to UK cinemas this autumn

SCOOBY-DOO! in CHILLI CHILLER

The story so far – Things are certainly hotting up at the chilli contest – El Diablo has spooked Scooby and Shaggy!







SCOOBY-DOO! in THE POSTAL GHOST

"IT ALL STARTED BACK IN 1861.

"A YOUNG PONY EXPRESS RIDER LEFT THE TOWN OF WAILING, WYOMING. ON THE LAST RIDE OF THAT SHORT-LIVED MAIL SERVICE. HE HAD NO IDEA IT WAS ALSO *HIS* LAST RIDE.

"FIVE MILES OUT, HE ENTERED BLACK ASH CANYON, JUST SOUTH OF DEVIL'S GATE. HE WAS NEVER SEEN AGAIN.

"BUT LONG AFTERWARDS, PEOPLE WOULD CLAIM THEY SAW HIS GHOST RIDING THROUGH THE HILLS. IN MODERN DAYS, NO ONE BELIEVED THAT LEGEND -- UNTIL TWO WEEKS AGO..."

YEEE HA HA, HA!

THE POSTAL GHOST

"... WHEN HE SUDDENLY APPEARED AGAIN."

IT'S MINE! IT'S MINE!

ALEX SIMMONS WRITER
VINCENT DEPORTER ARTIST
SERGIO GARCIA LETTERER
PAUL BECTON COLORIST
DIGITAL CHAMELEON SEPARATIONS
HARVEY RICHARDS ASST EDITOR
JOAN HILTY EDITOR

YET, HE HASN'T HURT ANYONE? STRANGE.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MAILBAGS HE TOOK, POSTMASTER SILVERS?

HE'S CAUSED THREE MAIL VANS TO WRECK, AND TWO MAIL CARRIERS TO QUIT!

THEIR CONTENTS ARE USUALLY FOUND SCATTERED ALL OVER THE HILLSIDES.

WAILING'S TOWNSPEOPLE ARE ANGRY AND SCARED. WHAT DOES HE WANT? AND WHY DOES HE CRY, "IT'S MINE, IT'S MINE?"

MAYBE HE MEANS THE JOB OF DELIVERING THE MAIL IS HIS.

OR HE'S LOOKING FOR SOMETHING HE LOST. IS THAT POSSIBLE?

WELL... THE SATCHEL OF MAIL HE CARRIED THAT DAY WAS NEVER FOUND. LEGEND SAYS HE WAS *BUSHWHACKED* BY THE BANDIT *LEAD BELLY JACK*.

"LEAD BELLY?! I CAN THINK OF BETTER THINGS TO EAT THAN *METAL!*

REEEE ROOO, RIKE RIG!

NO, NO... IN THOSE DAYS, LEAD BELLY WAS ONE OF THE MEANEST BANDITS AROUND.

NO...HE TOOK A FEW OF THOSE, TOO!

WANTED

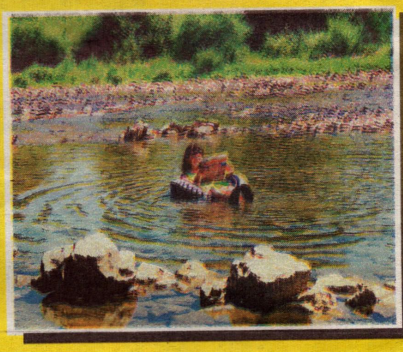
STOLE EVERYTHING BUT THE KITCHEN SINK, HUH?

Continued next week!

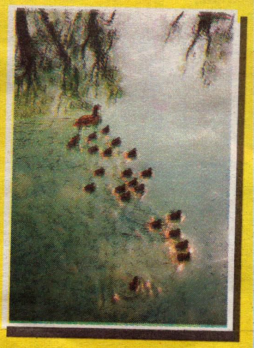
SCOOBY-DOO AND ALL RELATED CHARACTERS AND ELEMENTS ARE TRADEMARKS OF AND © HANNA-BARBERA. (S02)

Our Snap Happy Summer competition has shown just how skilful Funday readers can be with their cameras. We've received some amazing, funny and entertaining pictures, all taken over the summer holidays – but sadly there can be only two top snaps. And today, we are proud to announce that our joint winners are Lindsay Cook from Linlithgow and Oli Walkers from Spalding.

WINNING SNAPS!



What better way to enjoy the holidays? **Lindsay Cook, 11, Linlithgow**



This mother duck has 22 ducklings, in Treviso, Italy **Oli Walkers, 14, Spalding**

Courtesy of Argos, our overall summer winners will both receive an Olympus Superzoom 160, 35mm camera worth £199.99 [check it out at www.argos.co.uk using catalogue number 561/8318].

Thanks to everyone who sent in their summer snaps – and sorry if we didn't have room to print yours. All snaps will be returned during October.

The new Scooby-Doo adventure, Postal Ghost, continues next week!

FUNDAY

NEWS

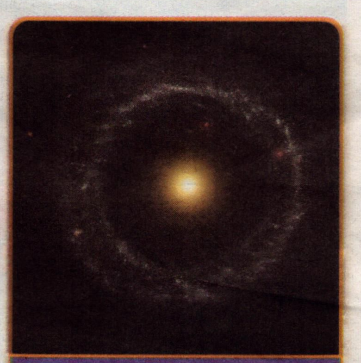
What a corker!

Artist Robert Bradford's sculpture of a Spanish imperial eagle is made from 350,000 wine corks and is thought to be the largest cork sculpture in the world! The huge creation has a 3.6m wingspan and is 8m tall – larger than a double decker bus! The eagle can be spotted [easily!] at Cornwall's Eden Project and was built as part of the RSPB's Choose Cork message. Like the black vulture and the Iberian lynx, the Spanish imperial eagle depends on cork oak forests to survive but, because wine producers have started to use alternative materials, cork forests have come under threat. The RSPB is keen to highlight the fact that if demand for corks fall, farmers will stop planting cork oaks and we will lose the likes of the Spanish eagle forever.

PICTURES: EPA/NASA, TIM CUFF/APEX, ©THE SUN/PHIL CALLAGHAN

Hogwartz?

Europe's first school for witches and wizards has opened in the mountains of Klagenfurt in southern Austria. The school takes students on a six-term course and teaches them how to make potions, cast spells and perform rituals. "The school's aim is to pass on witches' and wizards' ancestral knowledge, which is gradually being forgotten," explains school director Andreas Starchel, also known as Dakaneth. Europe's answer to Hogwarts has three classes of students. This year, up to 15 will be taught astrology, magic, history of magic, meditation and divination. Once students have taken a final exam and have completed a dissertation, they are awarded a *veneficus* certificate – to prove they are a qualified sorcerer!



Shot in space

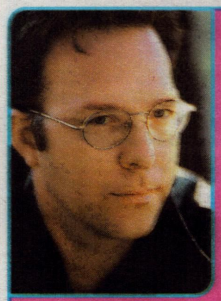
This is a recent image captured by the NASA Hubble Space Telescope and is of the unusual galaxy, Hoag's Object, discovered in 1950. The picture shows an almost perfect ring of hot blue stars around a yellow nucleus and is the best photograph of the galaxy taken so far. It could help astronomers learn more about how it formed.

Ball boy

If you've been watching the new Premiership action, you may have spotted something different. No, not the strips, but the ball – the new Nike Geo Merlin Vapor ball to be precise. One of the brains behind the new Premiership ball is Richard Avis, who is the man at Nike responsible for ball research and development. "Most people think a football is just a round thing that you kick," Richard tells Funday. "Actually, like many things in life, it's about how far you want to go with something." Among the new Fifa-approved ball's technological advances is its refined DART [Dynamic Acceleration Response & Touch] casing system, for enhanced touch, feel and control on the ball, but can a normal player get as much out of it as Thierry Henry? "Honestly? No," reveals Richard. "It requires a player of the highest standard to fully glean from the ball all it offers."

Paperboy performer

Wannabe entertainer Dale Hall, 13, from Alford, Lincolnshire has swapped his BMX for a unicycle and can be spotted balancing on the one-wheeled contraption doing his daily paper round! Dale learned to ride the cycle at an after-school circus skills club.



Go, girl!

Move over, Lara Croft, here comes Sabriel! Garth Nix's long-awaited fantasy novel has just been published in the UK, and if you like all-action adventure that guarantees you goosebumps, this is it!

Have you always wanted to write?
It was an ambition that dates back to when I was 19. I was doing the classic Australian backpacker thing, travelling around England, and I was re-reading a lot of my favourite old English children's books. I wrote half a very bad novel, and that's when I realised that this was what I wanted to do. I wanted to be a writer.

It's unusual to have a girl as the main character in a fantasy novel, isn't it?
Yes. I deliberately chose a woman rather than a man because I wanted to get away from some of the stereotypes of fantasy fiction. Yes, Sabriel has guts but I know a lot of very strong, tough women. It's foolish to think that women can't be tougher than men, both physically and mentally. But above all, I wanted to tell a good story.

It's also got a great talking cat!
Yes, and Mogget is in all three books – Sabriel is the first part of a trilogy. In fact, there's much more about him in the later books. Readers love Mogget.

There are some very scary scenes in Sabriel. What was your inspiration?
I drew on things that scared me. I wrote a lot of the book high up in a very small, windy flat in the semi-dark. It was like being in a wizard's tower with the wind howling through! I wrote some chapters sitting on the wall of the crusader castle in Syria, that was quite evocative.
Parts of it were written in England too. Hadrian's Wall was the inspiration of the separation between the two kingdoms in Sabriel. I remember seeing a photo of the wall with a grassy lawn on one side and snow on the other. It looked like one side was having summer, and the other side winter. It's hard to pinpoint where ideas come from, but some images like that definitely spark me off.
Damian Kelleher

Sabriel is published by HarperCollins, £12.99

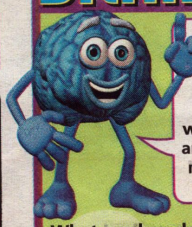
THE POWERPUFF GIRLS — BEDCRIME STORY

The story so far – While the Powerpuff girls tell a bedtime story, their tale takes on a sinister life of its own!

Continues next week!

THE POWERPUFF GIRLS AND ALL RELATED CHARACTERS AND ELEMENTS ARE TRADEMARKS OF AND © CARTOON NETWORK (S02)

BRAINBOX



I'm Brainbox – the Funday boffin! Send in a puzzling question you want to know the answer to and see if my friends and I can answer it.

What is oil made from?
Anthony Hartnett, 6, Bray, Ireland

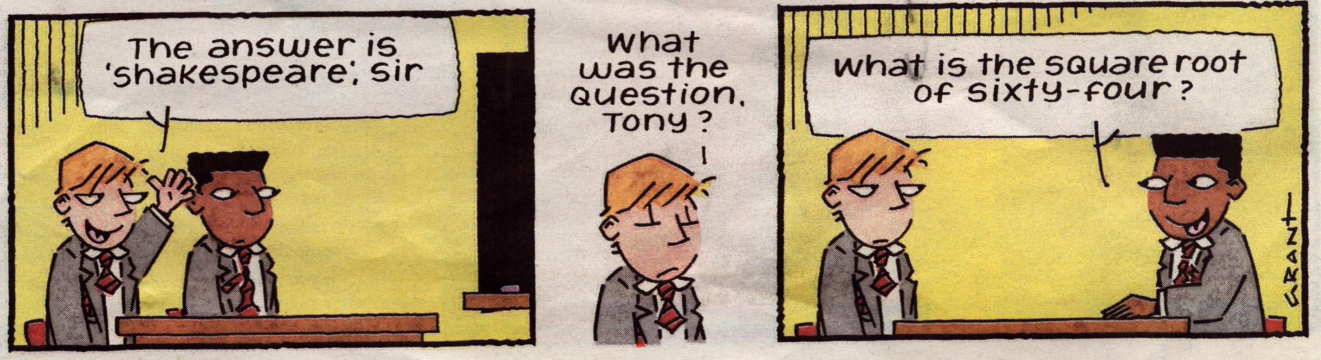
It depends what kind of oil you mean, as there are several different types! Oils are fatty, greasy liquids which usually don't dissolve in water but will dissolve in alcohol. These include fixed oils, such as olive oil which is made from crushed olives, and essential oils, like oil of peppermint. But when people talk about oil they usually mean mineral oil which is used for fuel. It's believed mineral oil was formed from plants and animals which died millions of years ago.

PICTURE: PA/BEN CURTIS

Their remains were buried in sediment, such as mud and sand. As the sediment piled up and became rock, the pressure and heat turned these remains into natural gas and a thick dark brown liquid that we call crude oil. As the crude oil is trapped under rock, it needs to be drilled out. It is then taken to an oil refinery, like the one shown, where a distillation tower is used to turn it into useful products such as petrol and lubricating oil.

If you have a question for Brainbox, write to: Brainbox, The Funday Times, PO Box 495, London E98 1ST or e-mail brainbox@sunday-times.co.uk

Jarvis

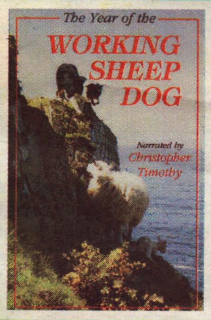


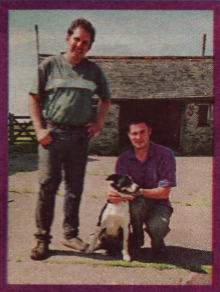
©KNIGHT FEATURES

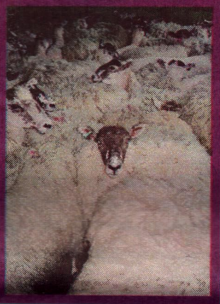
Find out next week what happens to the Powerpuff Girls!

YEAR OF THE DOG!

Sheep farmer David Kennard made his own video last year – The Year Of The Working Sheep Dog – which has become something of a hit! The video is about his life as a farmer and the dogs that help him look after 900 sheep. Duff Battye travelled to Devon to meet David on his farm





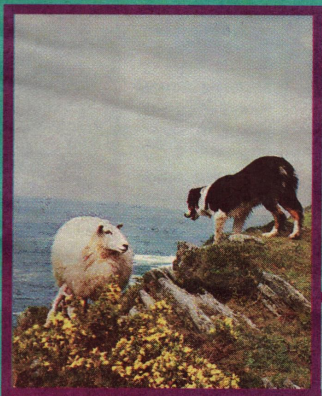


Hi David, why did you become a farmer?
My family always stayed on a sheep farm for our school holidays. I really enjoyed it and it was really the only thing I ever wanted to do. My earliest memory is of being really impressed with the farm's sheepdogs.

Your dogs are amazingly diligent – at what age do they start working?
Generally, the dog is at its peak at four to five years old, having perhaps taken two years to train. By the time the dogs get to about seven they have slowed down a lot. The dogs are like any athlete; they have a limited time when they are at their physical peak.

Do the dogs enjoy the work?
Oh, they love it. Quite often my younger dogs will slip away from me and be out in a field at midnight rounding up sheep! I then have to spend half an hour diving on the dogs to try and get them to stop!

Why do the dogs want to round up the sheep?
It comes originally from the hunting instinct. The dogs are herding the sheep to me as the pack leader. In the wild, the pack leader would then kill and eat the sheep and leave the leftovers for the other dogs. When we train the dogs, we change their instinct so they just manage the sheep.



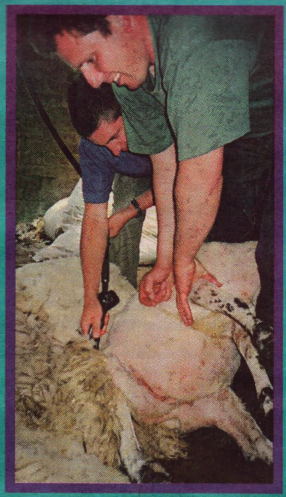
Are sheepdogs always Border collies?
There are other working dogs, but in the UK more than 90% of sheepdogs are Border collies. They have the brains and natural ability that makes them the best option.

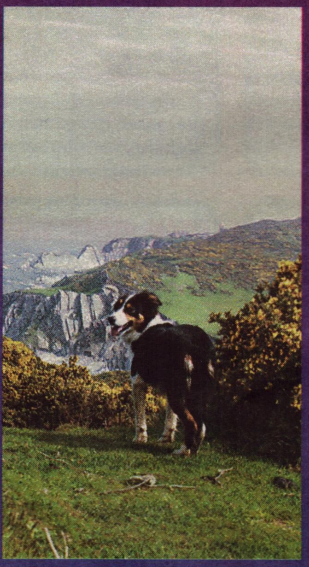
Could you do your job without the dogs?
No, catching an individual sheep to treat it without the dogs is virtually impossible because they are quite fast! Once you get out onto the hills they say a dog is worth seven men, but they are worth more than that. There are places you can send a dog that a human can't get to.

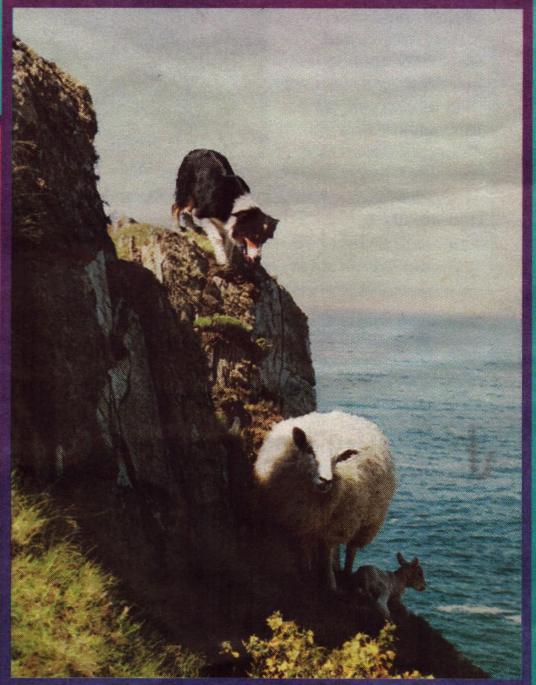
What's the bravest thing you've seen a dog do?
At lambing time, the ewes [female sheep] become very aggressive towards the dogs to protect their lambs. I've seen one of my dogs, Swift, being butted up against a wall by a ewe and she just carried on working.

What is the funniest thing that you have seen a dog do?
When sheep are tired, they naturally go for water, and they float very well! One of my dogs, Flick, would follow the sheep into the water. She would then round them up as normal, that is until she had to stop still, when she started sinking! That was very funny.

Why do you think the video you made has been so successful?
The video appeals a lot to people who are dog owners or who like dogs. But it also appeals to people who just want to learn about the countryside and the way of life. Hopefully the video might get more children interested in farming.







PICTURES: DAVID KENNARD

For more information on David and his work, check out www.sheepdogvideo.co.uk

To buy the video [for £12.99], ask an adult to call the credit card hotline: 0870 727 4159

For more information on sheepdogs and sheepdog competitions, go to www.isds.org.uk

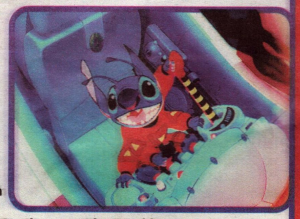
If you fancy visiting a farm, check out www.face-online.org.uk

MOVIE MANIA

Better book your season ticket for the cinema! Richard Mead checks out all the hot pre-Christmas releases

LILO & STITCH

Tagline. Family means nobody gets left behind
The lowdown: A lonely Hawaiian girl called Lilo adopts a "dog" from an animal shelter. But her new pet is really an alien who destroys everything he touches. This hilarious new Disney movie is packed with Elvis Presley songs too.



Stars: Lilo is voiced by 11-year-old Daveigh Chase and co-director Chris Sanders provides Stitch's strange sounds.
Released: October 4
Website: www.liloandstitch.com

xXx

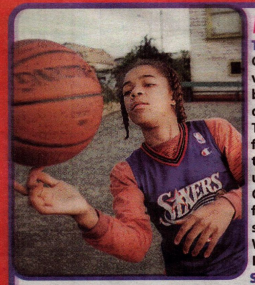
Tagline. A new breed of secret agent.
The lowdown: Stunt supremo Xander Cage finds himself in real danger when he's sent on an undercover mission by the American government. His job? To infiltrate a ruthless crime organisation. Director Rob Cohen knew Vin Diesel was the only actor who could play Xander, stating "I wouldn't make this movie without him". Xander's adventures are larger than life and xXx features the best stunt action you'll see this year. Seriously explosive fun!
Stars: Action heroes Vin Diesel and Samuel L Jackson
Released: October 17
Website: www.xxx-themovie.co.uk

RABBIT-PROOF FENCE

Tagline: 1,500 miles is a long way home
The lowdown: The true story of three Aboriginal girls who were placed in a government institution, set up to train them as domestic workers. Managing to escape, the three attempt a perilous journey across Australia's outback to be reunited with their mothers.

Stars: The girls are played brilliantly by untrained actresses. Top Brit actor Kenneth Branagh also stars.
Released. November 8
Website: www.rabbitprooffence.com.au

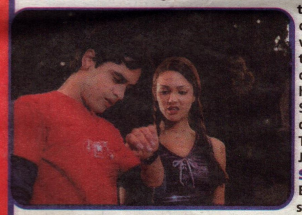
LIKE MIKE



The lowdown: Orphan Calvin Cambridge would love to be a basketball star but doesn't have the talent. That changes when he finds a pair of old trainers that give him unbelievable powers. One for sports fans, this features a host of NBA stars including Chris Webber and Allen Iverson.
Stars: Lil' Bow Wow plays Calvin and Jonathan Lipnicki from Stuart Little is his friend Murph.
Released: December 13
Website: www.likemikemovie.com

CLOCKSTOPPERS

Tagline: Freeze the future
The lowdown. Teenager Zak Gibbs discovers he can stop time using his dad's wristwatch. But this incredible device soon puts his life at risk. Sci-fi excitement directed by Star Trek star, Jonathan Frakes.



Stars: Jesse Bradford [who starred in Bring It On] is Zak. French Stewart [Harry in 3rd Rock From The Sun] plays the bumbling Dr Dopler.
Released: October 11
Website: www.clockstoppers.co.uk

ASTERIX AND OBELIX: MISSION CLEOPATRA

The lowdown: Cleopatra bets Caesar that the Egyptians can build a magnificent palace in just three months. Sounds like a job for Getafix's magic potion – and that means Asterix and Obelix are coming to help too! Attention was paid to every detail on this movie – one of Cleopatra's dresses contains 5,000 pearls!

Stars: A cast of hundreds, including 102 Dalmatians' Gerard Depardieu.
Released: October 18
Website. Details on www.asterix.tm.fr/english

HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS

Tagline. Dobby has come to warn you sir
The lowdown: Ignoring warnings from Dobby the house-elf to stay away from Hogwarts, Harry returns to face a slippery, sinister new terror. Comparing it with the first film, director Chris Columbus says it's "a darker story, filled with scarier creatures"!

Stars: Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint and Emma Watson all return, joined by Kenneth Branagh as Gilderoy Lockhart.
Released: November 15
Website. harrypotter.warnerbros.co.uk

LORD OF THE RINGS: THE TWO TOWERS

Tagline: This Christmas the journey continues in The Two Towers.

The lowdown: Frodo Baggins and the Fellowship continue their quest to destroy the One Ring. Their destinations are two towers – one owned by evil wizard Saruman and the other is Sauron's fortress in the dark lands of Mordor. The final film in the trilogy, The Return Of The King, will be released in 2003.
Stars: Elijah Wood, Ian McKellen, Orlando Bloom and Viggo Mortensen are all back.
Released: December 18
Website: www.lordoftherings.net

THE ROOKIE

Tagline: It's never too late to believe in your dreams
The lowdown: School baseball coach Jim Morris makes a deal with his team of losers – if they win the district championship, he'll have a trial for a Major League team. Suddenly the team start winning and it looks like Jim could be heading for the big time. Sounds unlikely but it's based on a true story.

Stars: Dennis Quaid from The Parent Trap and Jay Hernandez who starred opposite Kirsten Dunst in crazy/beautiful.
Released. October 11
Website: www.disney.com/therookie

THE POWERPUFF GIRLS MOVIE

Tagline: Saving the world before bedtime!
The lowdown: Ever wondered how the Powerpuff Girls became the protectors of Townsville? This movie uncovers how the three superheroes were created by Professor Utonium – and how they fell under the spell of evil genius Mojo Jojo!

Stars: Buttercup, Bubbles and Blossom. Actress E G Daily is the voice behind Buttercup and Rugrat Tommy Pickles.
Released. October 18
Website: Catch the trailer on www.powerpuffgirlsmovie.com

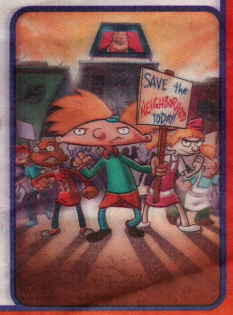
DIE ANOTHER DAY

Tagline. He's never been cooler
The lowdown: Bond is back – 20 years after the original 007 adventure, Dr No. Kicking off with an amazing high-speed hovercraft chase, this new adventure also sees Bond behind the wheel of an Aston Martin again. Watch out for the villain's lair – it's made entirely of ice!

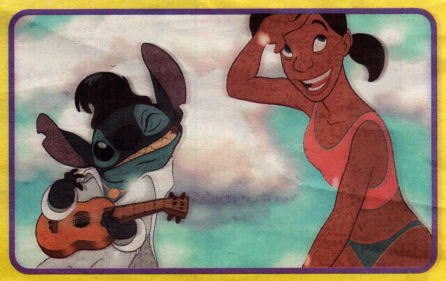
Stars: Pierce Brosnan is back for his fourth outing as Bond. Halle Berry is deadly as Jinx and John Cleese takes over as Q.
Released: November 20
Website: www.jamesbond.com

HEY ARNOLD! THE MOVIE

Tagline: A big problem calls for a big head
The lowdown: A nasty property developer wants to knock down Arnold's neighbourhood. Creator Craig Bartlett reveals that this movie took four years to make and it features Helga finally telling Arnold that she loves him!

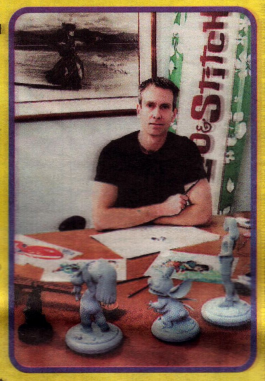


Stars: Arnold, Helga, Gerald and the rest of the small screen gang. Dan Castellaneta, who provides the voice for Grandpa, also voices Homer Simpson!
Released: December 20
Website: www.heyarnold.com



IN STITCHES

Funday meets Chris Sanders, the man behind fabulously funny film, Disney's Lilo & Stitch



He may seem new to you but troublesome alien Stitch has been around for almost 17 years. That's when his creator, Chris Sanders, first had the idea of a monstrous creature who was one of a kind. "I was trying to write a children's book," recalls Chris. "It was important to me to create a character who was unique. I came up with one – a frightening little guy who made up his own language. After a few months I realised he wasn't working as a book character and I didn't have the resources to make a film so I put him on the shelf."

Chris remembered his little monster when he was asked by Disney to come up with the idea for a new animation. He decided it was finally time to introduce Stitch to the world – or Hawaii at least, which is where Chris set the film.

"We had just finished Mulan, which features hordes of people," explains Chris. "I wanted to do my next movie somewhere you don't need to draw a crowd! I had a map of Hawaii on my wall and I just started daydreaming about it. It was a fateful decision because setting the film made us go there and that's where we came across the whole idea of 'ohana."

'Ohana is the Hawaiian word for family and is based around the idea that nobody in the group gets forgotten. Chris discovered that 'ohana can include whoever you want – a gang of friends, a brother and sister or an entire island.

"We have a character in our film who is the ultimate orphan," Chris says about Stitch. "He is the only creature in the universe that doesn't have anything like a family. So 'ohana is the one thing that could save him."

Chris worked on the film as co-director, co-screenwriter and even provided the noises of Stitch. He had a very clear idea of how the movie should look. Instead of relying on computer animation, Chris decided upon watercolour backgrounds, which hadn't been used in a Disney animation since the 1940s.

And including aliens in the movie allowed Chris's imagination to run riot. Having worked on Mulan, which was set in China, and basing his new movie in Hawaii, Chris was careful to portray both cultures realistically. But he could do whatever he liked with his extra-terrestrials. "I could say that every Wednesday they all bang their heads on the wall – for no reason!" he chuckles.

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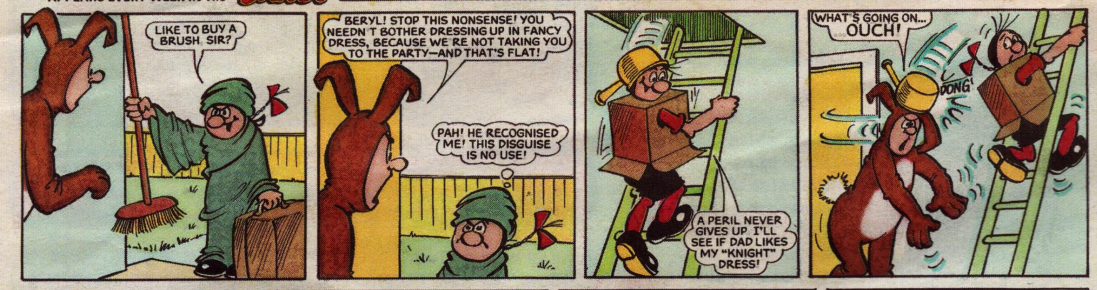
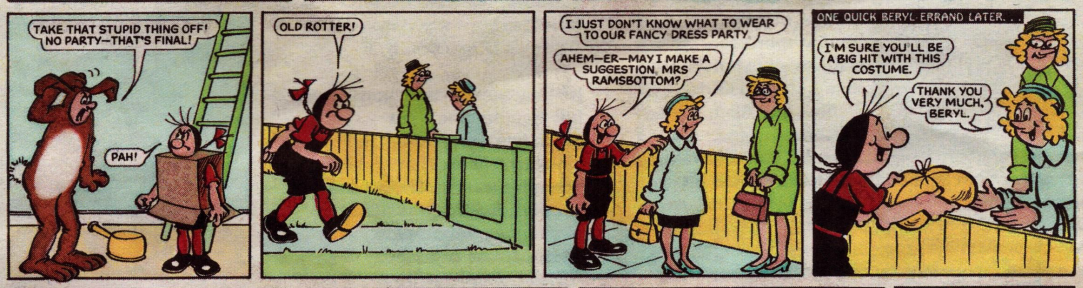
BERYL the PERIL

BERYL THE PERIL APPEARS EVERY WEEK IN The DANDY





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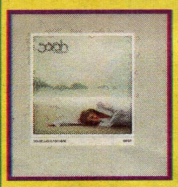
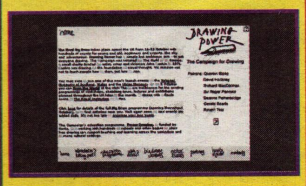
www.sarahwhatmore.com
Don't lose out on the latest gossip about new pop princess Sarah Whatmore. The Pop Idol star now has her own cool website. Catch up with Sarah's own diary, listen to mixes of When I Lost You and find out about her new album, Living Proof – and that's not all. What, more? Yes, there's a great message board where you can share your views with other fans plus you can download a fab screensaver of Sarah!



www.drawingpower.org.uk
It's time to brush up on your art skills! The Big Draw is taking place across the UK from October 16-23 and there are hundreds of events to encourage everyone to get creative. Visit this site to discover how you can scribble on the walls of a prison cell in Presteigne or make sculptures out of rubbish in Bristol. You can also take part in a world record drawing attempt!



If you are a webhead and have discovered a great site, or have created one of your own, spin me a mail and tell me all about it on webby@sunday-times.co.uk

FRESH!

MÜLLER CORNER SQUEEZERS ✪✪✪✪✪

Despite its name, this new taste bonanza bears little resemblance to a traditional corner yogurt pot – it's more of a sachet, in fact. The plastic pouch is divided into two chambers, keeping the yogurt and the fruit sauce [strawberry or peach flavours] separate. All you have to do is rip off the top, and then squirt the contents of both halves into your mouth – where the two flavours can then mix. It's a yummy sensation, but the actual operation can be a bit tricky. Just watch out nothing splatters out or misses your mouth!

SNACK

UTTERLY ME, CLARICE BEAN

Lauren Child ✪✪✪✪✪

The star from the Clarice Bean picture books now appears in her first novel. Clarice adores reading the adventures of the school-girl detective, Ruby Redfort, and plans to do her school project all about her favourite books. It looks like she might even scoop the top prize – until she's forced to team up with Karl Wrenbury, the naughtiest boy in the school! Discover how she copes in this utterly fantastic book.

BOOK

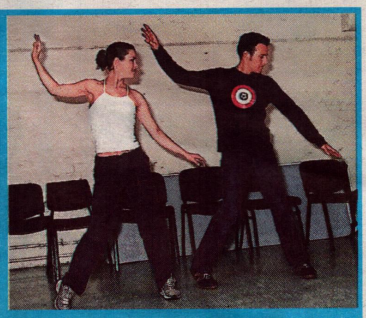
PRINT ATTITUDES ✪✪✪✪✪

Girls, some day your prints will come! If you fancy giving your stationery a make-over, pop Print Attitudes into your PC. You can create your own cards, photo frames, T-shirts and stickers and make sure your CDs hit the right note by designing your own labels and covers. More than 1,700 graphics are included – and you can add your own photos too. One warning – it comes with a hefty 123-page manual, which can be a bit frustrating when you're eager to get started.

CD-ROM

FUNDAY BUZZ!

THE NEXT STEP

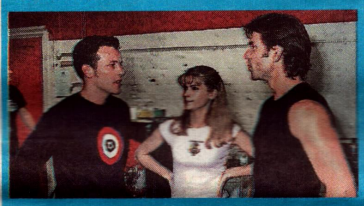


Lee Latchford Evans has been keeping a low profile since Steps split – until now! On Thursday he took on the role of Teen Angel in Grease at London's Victoria Palace Theatre. Buzz! went like Greased Lightnin' to catch him for a chat

Hi Lee, how would you describe Teen Angel?

He's a fantasy figure. One of the characters, Frenchy, imagines him as her guardian angel. But the song I sing, Beauty School Dropout, is tongue in cheek – it's telling her that she's a dropout and she should get on with her life.

There are many different ways you could play the role – you could go over the top or you could play it very seriously. I'm trying to do it somewhere in between and add a touch of Lee!



Were you a fan of Grease the movie when you were a kid?

I think everyone was! It's strange – many years ago I played the role of Danny in a school production of Grease. I used to watch the video a lot to prepare. My performance was totally influenced by John Travolta!

What were you like as a teenager?

I don't think I was a Danny. If I had gone to an American high school, I think I would have been a quarterback on the football team – one of the jocks. I would never class myself as one of the brainiest people. I was in the middle for brains but I was one of the best at sports.

Do you watch a lot of musicals?

I enjoy theatre. I like the way you can lose yourself in it. It has a different impact from a movie because it's live and in your face.

How do you view your time with Steps?

Steps was fun. We had fun travelling, it was fun on stage and the audience was fun. But it was very hard work. We were doing 16 hour days almost every day. We didn't get that Friday feeling at the end of the week – I never knew if it was the weekend or not! But it was an opportunity not to be missed. So, I'd call it hard fun.

Would you have changed anything?

No. I'm a big believer in everything happening for a reason. But looking back, I do wonder what it would have been like to have been in a boy band rather than a mixed band. It would have been a very different vibe. But then we were the first major mixed band to make it that big in this country. Now you've got bands like S Club, Hear'Say and Liberty X, which is nice because we sort of started that.

Any plans for a solo career?

I'm writing my own material ... so next year there's every opportunity for me to record on my own. I'm playing the guitar and working with producers. One thing I want to be is an entertainer. I imagine myself being in a round room and there are doors all around me. One says musical theatre, one says solo, one says acting and so on. There are lots of options I could go for – it's whichever door opens first.

To book tickets for Grease, call 020 7834 1317 or visit www.greasethemusical.co.uk

TRY OUT!

Top dance outfit Ian Van Dahl have had three top 10 hits in the UK and are coming back for more with their fourth single, Try. "It's a vocal trance track that's a little different," lead singer Annemie tells Buzz! "I wrote the lyrics myself so it's really special to me. I hope it does well and so far the reaction has been great. "We shot the video in Valencia in Spain," she explains. "At one point I had to dance while a helicopter hovered over my head," she gasps. "It was really dangerous and I was terrified as were the people watching – one person even burst into tears!"

Ian Van Dahl's new single, Try, is released tomorrow on NuLife Recordings

GIMME FIVE

Those of you who have been tuning into the Disney Channel will already be familiar with Stacey, Eamon, Charlotte, Chelsea and Sasha, aka Times 5! Nearly 5,000 youngsters auditioned for the group, but this talented fivesome emerged victorious after a massive public vote. You can catch Times 5 performing with Blue, Liberty X, a1 and S Club Juniors at the Disney Channel Kids Awards Final – on the Disney Channel on October 13.

HOT!

S Single
T TV

NEW DIRECTION S Club Juniors ★★★★★

Whilst the Juniors' latest single doesn't take them in the totally new direction its title suggests, the band get full credit for tackling a wicked, Kylie-esque track that will get them plenty of new fans. Miles better than the cheesy teenybopping of Automatic High, New Direction puts the Juniors into the big league now – in fact, this slice of pop gets better every time you listen to it. Give it a go!

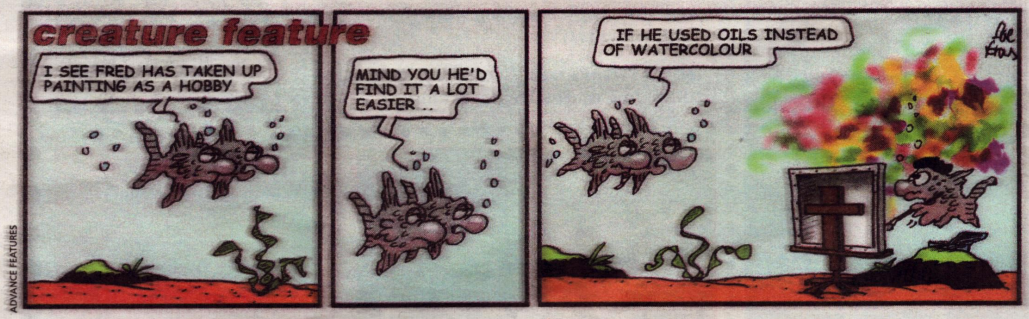
MYSTERY HUNTERS Discovery Kids ★★★☆☆

Mystery Hunters features two [slightly irritating] teenage reporters and one sceptical scientist. The Mystery Hunters team are on a mission to investigate the truth behind some of the world's greatest myths and mysteries. A fast-paced adventure-documentary, this isn't a series for the easily unsettled, and although the two young investigators looked as if they were having almost too much fun, we must admit we felt a bit squeamish in parts! Frozen brains and bacteria-flavoured jelly, anyone? Ghoulish fun!

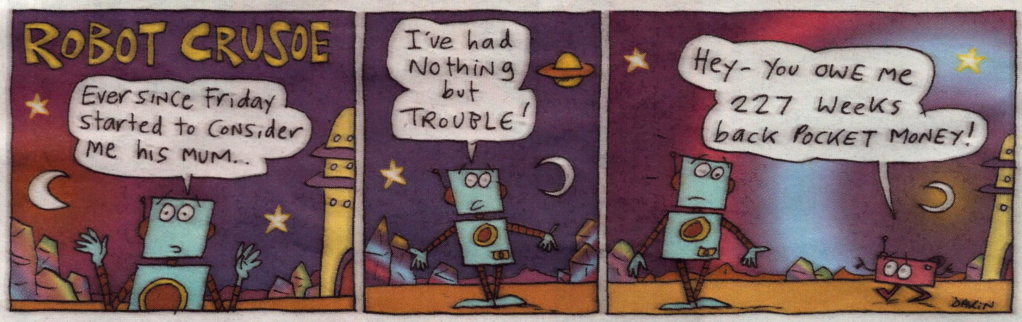
Catch the premiere on Discovery Kids, October 11 at 07:05 and 17.30.

UNDERNEATH IT ALL No Doubt ★★★★

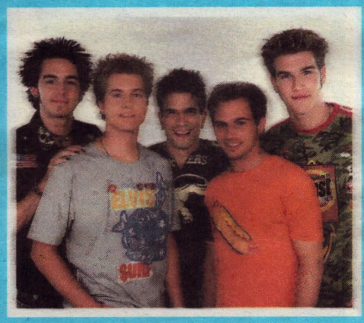
No Doubt refuse to conform to anyone's expectations but their own – and they're all the better for it. Never dull, Gwen and the boys have come up with yet another track that will probably surprise you. After the raucous Hey Baby and its follow up, Hella Good, the Doubt are plumping for a more laid back vibe with Underneath It All. Taken from their Rock Steady album, the reggae-influenced Underneath It All sees Gwen Stefani in slushy, loved-up mood. This track would have been a great summer track, so it's a welcome ray of sunshine this autumn.



ADVANCE FEATURES



NEXT WEEK



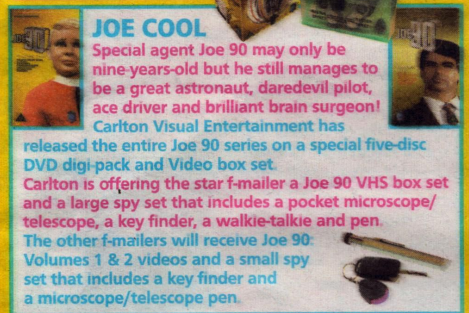
Could it be second time lucky for Natural? The US boyband are back with a new single

Check out the Science Museum's thrilling new James Bond exhibition, packed with movie memorabilia!

S Club Juniors pop in to tell us about their spooky stories and ghoulish tales!

f-mail

Send your letters, cartoons, jokes and drawings to: The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU7 7GX Send your e-mail to: funday.times@sunday-times.co.uk



JOE COOL

Special agent Joe 90 may only be nine-years-old but he still manages to be a great astronaut, daredevil pilot, ace driver and brilliant brain surgeon! Carlton Visual Entertainment has released the entire Joe 90 series on a special five-disc DVD digi-pack and Video box set.

Carlton is offering the star f-mailer a Joe 90 VHS box set and a large spy set that includes a pocket microscope/telescope, a key finder, a walkie-talkie and pen.

The other f-mailers will receive Joe 90: Volumes 1 & 2 videos and a small spy set that includes a key finder and a microscope/telescope pen.

Thomas Lennon, Mullingar, Ireland

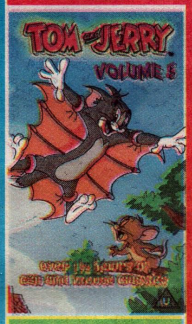
Katie Lang, 10, Musselburgh

FUNDAY

WIN IT!

COMPETITION ADDRESS Send answers to all competitions to us at: The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU95 1AY or funday.comps@sunday-times.co.uk [only one e-mail per entrant please]
Competition deadline: October 8
Entrants to Funday competitions must be 16 and under

JERRY JAPES



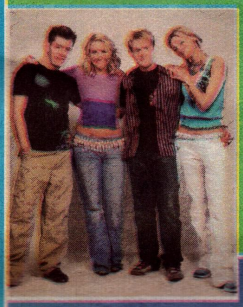
The never-ending feud between cat and mouse continues! Two new VHS compilations, Tom And Jerry: Volume 5 & Volume 6 [Warner Home Video, £9.99 each], are full of cat-astrophic capers involving the world's most famous cartoon troublemakers.
These latest collections of classic cartoons will keep cat and mouse lovers enthralled. They include the hilarious episodes Sleepy-Time Tom, The Flying Cat, Smitten Kitten and The Missing Mouse.
To celebrate the releases of Tom And Jerry: Volume 5 & Volume 6, Warner Home Video is offering five lucky Funday readers a Samsung SV-DVD1E combi player, which plays both videos and DVDs, and a set of Tom And Jerry: Volumes 5 & 6 on VHS.

To enter, tell us what name Tom is short for

Mark your entry TOM AND JERRY and send it, with your name, age and address, to the competition address above.

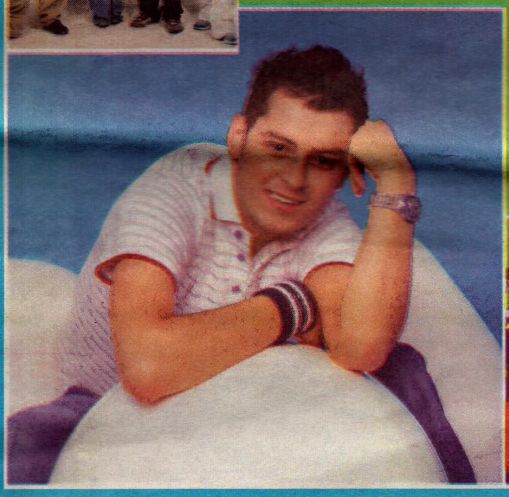
BEAT BRIAN

KFC is the proud sponsor of top Saturday morning show SM:tv Live – and to celebrate, KFC has just launched its Xpand It promotion.
Xpand your Kids Meal, for an extra 30p, at KFC and you'll get an X-clusive SM:tv Live reward card with the chance to win a walk-on part, a VIP SM:tv Live weekend, plus hundreds of SM:tv and KFC prizes.
KFC is offering one reader the chance to star on SM:tv Live, to challenge Brian on Brian's Brain! The winner [and a guardian] will get to meet Brian, H, Claire and Tess and whoever else is popping into the SM:tv Live studios. The prize includes overnight hotel accommodation, £100 towards travel and some tasty KFC Kids Meal vouchers. Plus, five runners-up will each receive SM:tv Live studio audience tickets and some KFC Kids Meal vouchers.



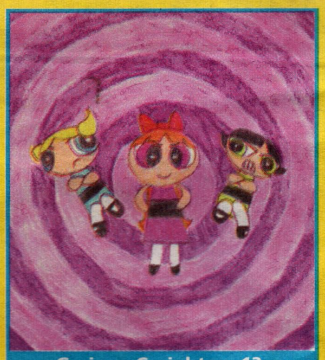
To enter, tell us the surname of Brian from SM:tv Live

Mark your entry XPAND IT and send it, with your name, age and address, to the competition address above.



Normal TNL competition rules apply to all Funday Times competitions

Daniel Giblin, 14, Warrington



Grainne Creighton, 13, Boyle, Ireland

Ruth Dunn, 12, Fife

James Wilkinson, 12, Newark

FUNDAY SPORT

JASON EUELL

Funday Sport chats to Charlton's Premiership striker, Jason Euell

Looking back, how did you rate your first season at Charlton?
I think it went well. It was my first year back in the Premier League after being in the First Division with Wimbledon. It was also the first time I had been transferred so the surroundings were strange and everything was a little bit different but Charlton soon made me feel welcome.

What are your ambitions for the season ahead?
Just to do as well as I did last year. I believe if I carry on doing well I will get into the England squad. I've played at under-20 and under-21 level, so if I have a good season, who knows?

What would make a successful season for a club like Charlton?
To make the top half of the table, which is not where we ended up last year [Charlton finished 14th]. We know that we can do better than that and it's down to us to start proving people wrong and showing how we can play football.

What will you have to do to catch Sven-Goran's eye?
I think it's always down to timing. If you are doing well and scoring goals, when perhaps he's not sure about others, there's a chance he'll pick you. If you are doing the business, he'll be looking to give you your chance.

Is it harder to play for England, playing at Charlton rather than Manchester United?
No, not at all – that was proved with Chris Powell. There was an opportunity for him as he was in-form and playing in a problem position, as there weren't many left-backs at the time. Chris deserved his chance, no matter what club he played for. Sven comes to a lot of our games, maybe not to see us all the time, but he knows how we play.

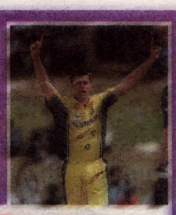
It's so important for clubs to avoid relegation from the Premiership, isn't it?
Being in the Premiership, the best league in the world, is a way to attract certain top people to the clubs but relegation from the Premiership leaves clubs in the situation where they have to balance their books. That's where the problems arise. It's one of the reasons behind what's happened at Wimbledon. On one side, the fans are seeing their club being moved from where it belongs while, on the other side, the owners are losing money and need to stop that from happening.

Which players have you faced that you have been impressed by this season?
I was impressed by Matthew Etherington and Simon Davies at Tottenham. They looked very capable against us.

Do you think clubs are giving their young players a chance due to the uncertainty over money?
No, it's not just that. If there's an injury to a first-choice player, instead of going out and buying another player, clubs have to give the younger members of the squad a game. They are getting their chance.

SPORT NEWS

Funday picks out the best of this week's sporting action



Today ICC Champions Trophy Final, Sri Lanka

After 14 thrilling matches, the original twelve countries have been whittled down to just two for today's decider. It should be a closer game than Australia's demolition of New Zealand by 164 runs at the beginning of the tournament. But cricket fans will know that one-day matches always throw up a few surprises! Catch the action on Sky Sports Extra from 9am.

Today USA Grand Prix, Indianapolis

Michael Schumacher's incredible season means that the real battle in this year's Formula One Championship has been for second place. With just two races remaining, Ferrari's Rubens Barrichello [below] can clinch it today if he gets a podium finish. But third placed Juan Pablo Montoya holds the lap record at this tight track! Live on ITV1 from 6.15pm.

RALLY ROUND

Ubi Soft's Colin McRae Rally 2.0 is blazing a trail as one of the top rally racing games for Game Boy Advance.

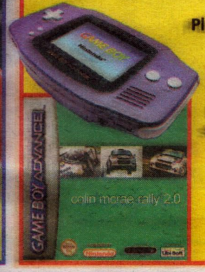
Like Colin McRae, one of rally racing's most exciting drivers, the game will entertain gamers and it boasts nine cars, 16 terrains and top weather effects.

Ubi Soft has joined forces with Funday to offer two readers a Game Boy Advance hand held and a copy of the game.

Plus, 12 runners-up will receive a copy of the game.

To enter, tell us Colin McRae's nationality.

Mark your entry FAST ONE and send it, with your name, age and address, to the competition address on page 11.



Ubi Soft

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